



## Media Release

**Date:** 7 April 2020

### Surgical Masks

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HSC is appealing to the local community to stop putting unhelpful comments on social media, the most recent and harmful of which stated that frontline staff at the PEH are not being issued with enough surgical masks.

Concerned Islanders are calling and emailing helpline within the States of Guernsey having read alarmist comments Facebook. There is absolutely NO substance to this rumour and posts of this nature only serve to increase fear in the community at this time.

HSC received an extremely kind donation of 3,000 masks from Credit Suisse on Friday 3 April. On 4<sup>th</sup> April 18,000 masks were delivered to HSC stores for distribution both in the hospital and the community (including care homes). A total of 250,000 facemasks have been ordered across 6 separate supply chains.

Because of the massive global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) at this time, HSC has asked local businesses who may hold or are able to source PPE and who would like to donate such equipment to support the Island's response to this pandemic to contact the States of Guernsey procurement team. This request was made to enhance the existing stocks and supply chains and not because there are insufficient stocks for staff to utilise on Island.

HSC has a dedicated central resource team managing PPE stocks and PPE is distributed on a daily basis to ensure essential services can continue across both hospital and community teams.

**Ends**